



# Water Quality NewsFlash

Published by California Department of Transportation, Division of Environmental Analysis, Office of Storm Water Policy

September 11, 2006

Number 06-37

## **Enforcement – Central Valley Board takes action on construction runoff –**

The Board Executive Officer issued Administrative Civil Liability Complaints to three developers for violations of a construction storm water permit. The proposed penalties range from \$100,000 to \$900,000. The violations include discharge of sediment-laden storm water to creeks or vernal pools. BMP maintenance problems were also observed at each location. See *Water News*: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/>

**Funding for Retrofits – FHWA issues guidance** - The Federal Highway Administration posted guidance in August regarding the expanded eligibility of federal highway funds for use on stormwater and other environmental restoration projects. The new provisions are mainly directed at impacts of highway facilities built prior to the current stormwater requirements. These stormwater measures may be implemented under two basic scenarios:

- As a stand-alone project - one that is developed solely to address stormwater concerns and is not associated with a transportation project that is being developed or is under construction; or
- In conjunction with a project that is currently being developed for the reconstruction, rehabilitation, resurfacing, or restoration of a transportation facility. In this case, the costs for environmental restoration and pollution abatement may not exceed 20 percent of the total cost of the project.

More information: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/envrestore.htm>

**Lead – USGS estimates loading from tire weights** – *NewsFlash 05-36* reported on EPA's denial of a petition to control (and maybe ban) lead weights used to balance car tires. The petition was brought under Section 2605 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) by the Ecology Center of Ann Arbor and supported by the states of Maine and Minnesota. Lead is one of the pollutants in roadway runoff that often exceeds water quality standards at the point of discharge and is also targeted by some TMDLs in California.

A recent U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) study estimates that roughly 2,000 tons of lead are lost from vehicles annually via tire weights that come loose. At least some of these weights are abraded by traffic or may also be pushed or swept into drainage systems. The European Union is implementing a ban on lead tire weights and reportedly some U.S. car manufacturers are moving toward other materials such as zinc and steel. Unfortunately, zinc is also a significant pollutant of concern in urban runoff. Other sources of lead near roadways include residual lead from the years when leaded gasoline was in use.

<http://pubs.acs.org/subscribe/journals/esthag/40/i15/html/080106news4.html>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, [Betty\\_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov) (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, [fkrieger@msn.com](mailto:fkrieger@msn.com) with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>